

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated 4/21/98.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under section 112, second paragraph. The points noted by the Examiner have been rectified.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-5 and 9 under section 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishihara JP6-111294 or Matsumura, et al., JP6-290452. Claims 1-5, 7-9 and 11 were rejected under section 102(b) as being anticipated by Sato JP5-307748. Ishihara JP6-111294 teaches to use of a pattern of bumps which is claimed to optimize durability of the slider while preventing "attraction" of the slider surface to the disk. Matsumura, et al., JP6-290452 teaches the burning of holes in a carbon substrate. Sato JP5-307748 teaches the formation of bumps on the head parking area which have no sharp angles. Applicants respectfully disagree that these references anticipate the claims as amended above.

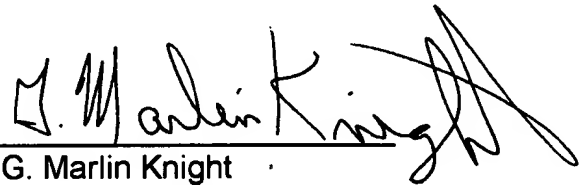
Claim 5 which is an independent claim to a disk drive which has a landing zone which includes a "texture free zone" which is used in conjunction with "a landing position control unit for moving the slider so that the minimum fly height area of said slider is positioned over the free zone of said disk storage medium when landing said slider." None of the cited references teach the foregoing element of this claim. Method claim 9 has similar provisions and is, therefore, likewise distinguishable.

All of the claims remaining in the case depend from claims 5 and 9 and, therefore, are similarly distinguishable over the references on the basis given above. However, the dependent claims add significant additional elements which further distinguish over the prior art. For example, claim 6 includes the applicants' teaching that the minimum fly height area is on the inner rail. Claim 7 includes the applicants' teaching that the bumps have a height above the surface such that the minimum fly height area of the slider does not touch the surface of the disk during landing. Method claims 10 and 11 parallel claims 6 and 7.

Claims 1-4 have been cancelled, so the rejections relating thereto are no longer applicable.

Therefore, all of the claims remaining in the case as amended are believed to be allowable and a speedy allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Marlin Knight", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

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